

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David L Provence on May 04, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended). In line 7 after "adaptive mutations" please insert ---- relative to the amino acid positions using SEQ ID NO: 2 as a reference sequence ---

Claim 14 (currently amended). In line 13 after "adaptive mutations" please insert ---- relative to the amino acid positions using SEQ ID NO: 2 as a reference sequence ---

Claim 18 (currently amended). In line 9 after "adaptive mutations" please insert ---- relative to the amino acid positions using SEQ ID NO: 2 as a reference sequence ---

Claim 26 (currently amended). In line 9 after "adaptive mutations" please insert ---- relative to the amino acid positions using SEQ ID NO: 2 as a reference sequence ---

Claim 33 (currently amended). In line 10 after "adaptive mutations" please insert ---- relative to the amino acid positions using SEQ ID NO: 2 as a reference sequence ---

Claim 53 (currently amended). In line 1 please delete " at least three" and insert --- the ---

Claim 1-4, 6-8, 14-24, 26-31, 33-35, 41-43 and 47-53 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Isolation of a HCV with a particular amino acid residue mutation(s) having an effective replication property is always unexpected. While S2204I mutation was known prior to the current Application was filed, no prior art teaches or suggest an isolated HCV 1a mutant with at least two other mutations identified by Applicants in addition to the proviso S2204I mutation in the HCV 1a genome.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

Art Unit: 1648

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BAO LI whose telephone number is (571)272-0904. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zachariah Lucas can be reached on 571-272-0905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BAO LI/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1648